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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09 990,613	11/21/2001	Reen Wu	UC072.001A	3887

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EXAMINER

LI, QIAN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1632

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/990,613	WU ET AL.
	Examiner Q. Janice Li	Art Unit 1632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-32 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S. C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-5 are drawn to an isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos: 31 and 32, and a vector comprising the polynucleotide. Classified in Class 536, subclass 23.1, and class 435, subclass 320.1.
 - II. Claims 6-13, 19, and 27-29 are drawn to host cells and a non-human transgenic mammal comprising cells containing a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos: 31 and 32, and a method of making the transgenic non-human mammal. Classified in class 800, subclass 13, and class 424, subclass 93.21.
 - III. Claims 14-18 are drawn to a method of culturing cells that expressing a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos: 31 and 32. Classified in class 435, subclass 69.1 and 455.
 - IV. Claims 20-26 are drawn to an assay method comprising introducing a reporter construct into a host cell and assessing the expression of the marker gene product, wherein the reporter construct comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos: 31 and 32. Classified in Class 424, subclass 93.2.
 - V. Claims 30 and 31 are drawn to a method of screening compounds for the ability to modulate MUC5B gene *in vivo* in a transgenic animal. Classified in class 800, and subclass 3.

VI. Claim 32 is drawn to a method for specific expression of a nucleic acid of interest in cells of tracheobronchial epithelial origin of a mammal. Classified in class 514, subclass 44.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons.

Inventions II and I are distinct. Inventions are distinct if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, each of the groups II and I are drawn to a different product, i.e. a nucleic acid, or a transgenic mammal. The different products are distinct in chemical structure and function as well as modes of operation when used for therapeutic and diagnostic purposes.

Inventions III-VI and II are independent and distinct inventions. Inventions are distinct if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, the different inventions are different methods of making transgenic animals, culturing cells, screening for drugs in vitro or in vivo, and gene therapy in vivo. Each of the groups differs either in the material (nucleic acid, cell, and animal) used in the process, or the method steps (in vivo vs. ex vivo). The different methods use material different substances, have different method steps, different modes of operation, and require distinct technical considerations, and search criteria. The search for groups III and IV would not require a search for a transgenic animal, for example.

Inventions V, and II could be related as product and process of use, respectively. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the screening could be performed in an *ex vivo* process such as claimed in group III, and the transgenic animal could be used in a materially different process, such as producing an antibody.

The differences of the Inventions I-VI are further underscored by their divergent classification and independent search criteria.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter and different search criteria, it would impose an undue burden to the Office if all the groups are examined together, thus, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

3. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Inventions I, II, IV-VI are directed to patentably distinct species of products comprising either a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting either SEQ ID Nos: 31 or 32 and/or methods of using such. If one of the invention groups I, II, IV-VI is elected, further election of a species is necessary.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1-15 and 19-32 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is advised that where a single claim encompasses more than one invention as defined above, upon election of an invention for examination, said claim will only be examined to the extent that it reads upon the elected invention.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Q. Janice Li whose telephone number is 703-308-7942. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah J. Reynolds can be reached on 703-305-4051. The fax numbers for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of formal matters can be directed to the patent analyst, Dianiece Jacobs, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3388.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235. The faxing of such papers must conform to the notice published in the Official Gazette 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989).



Q. Janice Li
Examiner
Art Unit 1632

QJL
February 3, 2003